The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas

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Summary Part Three

After d’Artagnan and his friends return from their adventure of restoring the Queen’s honor, the four friends have to try and find a way to solve their lack of equipment problem. Porthos is the first to solve it by contacting his mistress who provides them with horses and money. When the friends were at Porthos’ mistress’ house collecting their funds, D’Artagnan sees the woman from Meung and runs after her. D’Artagnan runs into Lord de Winter and his three friends who challenge him and Aramis, Porthos, and Athos to a duel. Because of the duel two of de Winter’s men are killed, another is injured, and he himself is spared by d’Artagnan because he claims that he loves his sister Lady de Winter. After being introduced to Lady de Winter, d’Artagnan becomes infatuated with her and goes to see her every chance he gets. Even though he suspects that Milady is a spy for the Cardinal, D’Artagnan begins to fall in love with Milady and the maid Kitty begins to fall in love with him. One day Kitty pulls d’Artagnan aside and tells him that Milady hates him and that she was involved with the kidnapping of Madame Bonacieux. D’Artagnan plans his revenge with the help of Kitty by intercepting Milady’s love letters to the Comte de Wardes. D’Artagnan’s plan was to humiliate Milady and force her to tell him the whereabouts of Madame Bonacieux, but he becomes seduced by her in the dark and they become intimate. Milady gave him a ring that was to show a token of her affection. The next day d’Artagnan confronts Milady and reveals the truth of what had been happening. Milady goes crazy with rage and attacks d’Artagnan. While she attacked, d’Artagnan managed to rip her shirt and reveals a Fleur-de-Lis branded onto her left shoulder. Fearing for his life, d’Artagnan flees to Athos’ house and explained the events of the past few weeks. Athos believes she could be his branded wife, who he had killed years before by hanging her. D’Artagnan returns to his home after gathering his three friends and finds Kitty waiting there. She feared Milady would kill her and begs for help. D’Artagnan promises to protect her.

Analysis

I was really captivated by the plot when I finally got to this part. I really adore d’Artagnan’s character. However, I really don’t like how he was starting to fall in love with Milady. She might be a pretty face but gosh she is a witch. I wish he would have left her alone. I also really don’t like how he was playing with Kitty’s emotions and pretending to love her back. I wasn’t surprised that Milady attacked d’Artagnan. I mean, who wouldn’t want to attack him when she finds out that he was intercepting her love letters? I probably would in her situation.

Application

I can say that lust is one of the main components of this section of the book. Lust is part definitely an inherent human characteristic because as humans, we always want something better or something that we can’t have. In this section, the lust is a never ending circle that involves d’Artagnan, Kitty, and Milady. Kitty loves d’Artagnan but he won’t ever feel the same way towards her. D’Artagnan wants Milady even though he thinks she could be a spy. Milady desperately wants Comte de Wardes but d’Artagnan ruins it for her. And just as a person would expect, it ends badly for all of them.